

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a heparin-induced, CNN-like protein (HICP) protein, comprising a nucleotide sequence at least about 60% 90% homologous to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having at least one of the following activities: i) inhibiting cell proliferation; ii) acting as a growth factor antagonist; iii) inhibiting growth in heparin responsive cells; iv) acting as a connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) agonist; or v) acting as a platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) agonist. ~~or a complement thereof.~~
2. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a complement thereof.
3. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, further comprising nucleotides 1-883 of SEQ ID NO:1.
4. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, further comprising nucleotides 1534-1708 of SEQ ID NO:1.
5. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof.
6. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, further comprising nucleotides 1-635 of SEQ ID NO:3.
7. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which is capable of specifically hybridizing to specifically detects a HICP nucleic acid molecule. ~~relative to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-HICP protein.~~
8. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a HICP protein which comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 60% 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having at least one of the following activities: i) inhibiting cell proliferation; ii) acting as a growth factor antagonist; iii)

inhibiting growth in heparin responsive cells; iv) acting as a connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) agonist; or v) acting as a platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) agonist.

9. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. **(Original)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a HICP protein, comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

**11-12. (Cancelled)**

13. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment has which is at least about 60% 90% homologous to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof, and encodes a polypeptide which has at least one of the following activities:

- i) it can modulate inhibiting cell proliferation;
- ii) it can modulate a growth factor signaling pathway acting as a growth factor antagonist;
- iii) it can inhibit growth in heparin responsive cells -modulate the activity of CTGF or PDGF; or
- iv) acting as a connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) agonist; or -modulate a heparin-induced response in a heparin responsive cell
- v) acting as a platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) agonist.

**14-15. (Cancelled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which is antisense to the nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 1, 9, 11 or 13.

17. **(Original)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 1, 8, 10, or 13.

18. **(Original)** The vector of claim 17, which is a recombinant expression vector.

19. **(Original)** A host cell containing the vector of claim 18.

20. **(Original)** A method for producing HICP protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 19 in a suitable medium until HICP protein is produced.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, further comprising isolating HICP protein from the medium or the host cell.

**22-47. (Cancelled)**

48. **(Currently Amended)** A method for detecting the presence of HICP activity in a biological sample comprising contacting a biological sample with an agent capable of detecting an indicator of HICP activity such that the presence of HICP activity is detected in the biological sample, wherein the agent is a labeled nucleic acid probe capable of hybridizing to HICP mRNA.

**49-57. (Cancelled)**

58. **(Original)** A diagnostic assay for identifying a genetic alteration in a cell sample, the presence or absence of the genetic alteration characterized by at least one of (i) aberrant modification or mutation of a gene encoding a HICP protein, and (ii) mis-regulation of said gene or (iii) aberrant post-translational modification of a HICP protein.

**59. (Cancelled)**

60. **(Currently Amended)** The assay of claim 58, wherein detecting said alteration includes:

- a. providing a reagent comprising two diagnostic probes capable of hybridizing to HICP mRNA;
- b. combining said reagent with nucleic acid of said cell sample; and
- c. detecting, by amplification or lack of amplification of said cellular nucleic acid, the absence or existence of said alteration.

**61-63. (Cancelled)**